

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application.

Acknowledgement of the allowability of claims 8 and 21-23 is noted with appreciation.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-9 and 22-26 are pending in the application. By this amendment allowable claim 8 is amended to stand as an independent claim. Allowable claim 21 and intervening claim 20 have been canceled and their subject matter has been incorporated into claim 1.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Entry of this amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 is respectfully requested because it cancels claims and places the application in condition for allowance without raising new issues.

Rejection Over NAKASHIMA et al.

Claims 1-7, 9, 20, 25 and 26 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by or, alternatively, under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over NAKASHIMA et al. (U.S. Patent 5,326,484). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 21 (and intervening claim 20), which was free of this rejection over NAKASHIMA et al. It is

accordingly believed that amended claim 1 and its dependent claims are now instantly patentable over NAKASHIMA et al.

Conclusion

Prior art of record but not utilized is believed to be non-pertinent to the instant claims.

As no issues remain, the issuance of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully solicited

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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